

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4-8 and 13-20. Please add new claims 21-33.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of disk drives each having a first region and a second region, wherein said first regions have a performance parameter faster than said second regions; and

5 a controller configured to (i) write ~~a plurality of data items in said first regions~~ a first data block at a particular address in said first region of a first drive of said disk drives, (ii) read a second data block from said particular address of a second drive of said disk drives, (iii) calculate a first parity item based on said first data block and said second data block and 10 (iv) write said first parity item in said second region of a third drive of said disk drives ~~and (ii) write a plurality of fault tolerance items for said data items in said second regions.~~

2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first region for each of said disk drives comprises an annular area of a storage medium proximate an outer edge of said storage media.

3. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second region for each of said disk drives comprise an area of said storage medium between said first region and a rotational axis of said storage medium.

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 8 1, wherein said disk drives comprise a redundant array of inexpensive disks level 5.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 8 1, wherein said disk drives comprise a redundant array of inexpensive disks level 6.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said performance parameter is a bit transfer rate to a storage medium within said disk drives.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for operating a plurality of disk drives, comprising the steps of:

(A) partitioning an address range for said disk drives into a first range and a second range, where said first range has a performance parameter faster than said second range;

(B) writing a first data block at a particular address in said first range of a first drive of said disk drives;

(C) reading a second data block from said particular address of a second drive of said disk drives;

(D) calculating a first parity item based on said first data block and said second data block; and

(E) writing said first parity item in said second range of a third drive of said disk drives ~~a first data item in said first range, and~~

~~(C) writing a first fault tolerance item for said first data item in said second range.~~

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CANCELLED)

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller is further configured to (i) write said first data block in a first disk of said first drive, (ii) read a third data block from said predetermined address of a second disk of said first drive, (iii) calculate a second parity item based on said first data block and said third data block and (iv) store said second parity item in said second region of said first drive.

22. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said controller is further configured to write said second parity item in said first disk of said first drive.

23. (NEW) The method according to claim 12, wherein said performance parameter is a bit transfer rate to a storage medium within said disk drives.

24. (NEW) The method according to claim 12, wherein said first data block is written in a first disk of said first drive, the method further comprising the steps of:

reading a third data block from said predetermined
5 address of a second disk of said first drive;

calculating a second parity item based on said first data block and said third data block; and

storing said second parity item in said second range of said first drive.

25. (NEW) The method according to claim 24, wherein said second parity item is written in said first disk of said first drive.

26. (NEW) A method for operating a plurality of disk drives, comprising the steps of:

(A) partitioning an address range for said disk drives into a first range and a second range, where said first range has
5 a performance parameter faster than said second range;

(B) writing a first data block in said first range of a first drive of said disk drives;

(C) generating a first mirrored data block by mirroring said first data block; and

10 (D) writing said first mirrored data block in said second range of a second drive of said disk drives.

27. (NEW) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

generating both said first data block and a second data block by stripping an original data block; and

5 writing said second data block to said first range of a third drive of said disk drives.

28. (NEW) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

generating a second mirrored data block by mirror said second data block; and

5 writing said second mirrored data block to said second range of a fourth drive of said disk drives.

29. (NEW) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

generating both a second data block and a third data block by stripping said first data block, where the step of writing
5 said first data block comprises the sub-steps of:

writing said second data block in said first drive; and
writing said third data block in a third drive of said disk drives.

30. (NEW) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of:

generating both a second mirrored data block and a third mirrored data block by stripping said first mirrored data block,
5 wherein the step of writing said first mirrored data block comprises the sub-steps of:

writing said second mirrored data block in said second drive; and

writing said third mirrored data block in a fourth drive
10 of said disk drives.

31. (NEW) The method according to claim 26, wherein said performance parameter is a bit transfer rate to a storage medium within said disk drives.

32. (NEW) The method according to claim 26, wherein said disk drives comprise a redundant array of inexpensive disks level 10.

33. (NEW) The method according to claim 26, wherein said disk drives comprise a redundant array of inexpensive disks level 0+1.